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**Indiana Launches New “*Drunk Driving. Over The Limit. Under Arrest.*”
Enforcement Crackdown on Drunk Driving**

(Indianapolis, IN.) August 17, 2006 – The Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Traffic Safety Division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) are joining with thousands of law enforcement and highway safety agencies across the nation from August 16-September 4, 2006 to launch an aggressive new campaign aimed at combating impaired driving, called “*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*”

Drunk driving is one of America’s deadliest crimes. In fact, during 2004, nearly 13,000 people were killed in highway crashes involving an impaired driver or motorcycle operator with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. The picture for motorcycle operators is particularly bleak. Forty-one percent of the 1,672 motorcycle operators who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2004 had BAC levels of .08 or higher.

“Law enforcement will be out in force statewide, conducting sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and using undercover officers to get more drunk drivers off the road. We want everyone to play it safe and always designate a sober driver or find an alternate way home if they have been out drinking,” said Mike Cunegin, Executive Director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state. According to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.4 million people were arrested for driving under the influence in 2004. Although alcohol-related fatalities across the nation slightly declined in 2003 and 2004, according to a report released on August 17, 2006 by the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), alcohol-related fatalities have in fact increased for 2005. More specifically alcohol-related fatalities involving drivers with a BAC of at least .08 increased 6.2 %.

"You drive drunk, you'll get caught. And if you get caught, you'll go to jail. Our Marion County FACT Team has a 100% conviction rate. And, given that drunk driving is a

100% preventable crime, you've got good reason to not drink and drive,” said Carl Brizzi, Marion County Prosecutor.

The national “*Drunk Driving. Over The Limit. Under Arrest.*” impaired driving campaign is a comprehensive impaired driving prevention program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

“Regardless of what you drive – a passenger car, pickup truck, sport utility vehicle or motorcycle – if you are driving impaired, you will be arrested. No exceptions. No excuses,” said Paul Whitesell, Indiana State Police Superintendent.

“Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only does an individual risk killing themselves or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant,” said Dan Jeffries, Director of ICJI’s Traffic Safety Division. “Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver’s license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work, and dozens of other expenses.”

This year’s effort is supported by \$11 million in paid-national advertising to help put everyone on notice that if they are caught driving impaired, they will be arrested.

The Traffic Safety Division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute would like to thank the staff of the Indianapolis Zoo for lending their support by hosting the 2006 Impaired Driving Press Conference.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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